

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A slider comprising:

a slider body including a leading edge and a trailing edge and opposed sides;

_____ at least one bearing pad including a raised bearing surface ~~formed at a substrate surface of the slider body and~~ elevated above a recessed surface of the slider body; ~~and the slider including~~

_____ a stepped bearing surface recessed from the raised bearing surface and elevated above the recessed surface of the slider body proximate to a leading edge of the at least one bearing pad; ~~and the at least one bearing pad including~~

_____ a recessed pressure cavity having a recessed cavity surface recessed from the raised bearing surface of the at least one bearing pad and the stepped bearing surface at ~~least one bearing pad and~~ including a leading edge cavity step from the stepped bearing surface to the recessed pressure cavity and a trailing edge cavity step to the raised bearing surface of the at least one bearing pad ~~or the at least one bearing pad including a plurality of recessed cavities having a cavity step to the raised bearing surface about a perimeter thereof.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The slider of claim 1 wherein the at least one bearing pad and the raised bearing surface thereof formed at a substrate surface of the slider body is one of a leading edge bearing pad or a trailing edge bearing pad.

3. (Currently Amended) The slider of claim ~~1~~20 wherein the plurality of recessed ~~pressure~~ cavities are one of rectangular, square or round shape.

4. (Original) The slider of claim 1 wherein the at least one bearing pad includes a leading edge and a trailing edge along a leading edge portion of the slider.

5. (Currently Amended) The slider of claim ~~±~~ 20 wherein the plurality of recessed ~~pressure~~-cavities include a plurality of rows of spaced recessed ~~pressure~~-cavities between the leading and trailing edges of the at least one bearing pad or a plurality of recessed pressure cavities spaced between opposed sides of the at least one bearing pad.

6. (Original) The slider of claim 1 wherein the trailing edge cavity step includes a cavity step from the recessed cavity surface to the raised bearing surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The slider of claim ~~±~~20 including a plurality of cavity steps from the recessed cavity surface to the raised bearing surface.

8. (Currrently Amended) The slider of claim 1 wherein the raised bearing surface includes a "U" shaped portion including a trailing edge portion and opposed side portions and including opposed side cavity steps to the raised bearing surface along the opposed side portions.

9. (Currently Amended) The slider of claim 1 wherein the at least one bearing pad includes a length dimension and a cross dimension wherein a length to cross dimension ratio of the at least one bearing pad is less than or equal to 2.

10. (Original) A slider comprising:

a slider body including at least one bearing pad including a raised bearing surface elevated above a leading edge step region and a recessed surface of the slider body and a recessed pressure cavity having a recessed cavity surface enclosed by a cavity step including a leading edge cavity step from the leading edge step region to the recessed cavity surface and a trailing edge cavity step to the raised bearing surface.

11. (Original) The slider of claim 10 wherein the raised bearing surface includes a "U" shaped structure to form the trailing edge cavity step and opposed side steps to the raised bearing surface extending along opposed sides of the recessed pressure cavity.

12. (Original) The slider of claim 10 wherein the raised bearing surface is textured.

13. (Original) The slider of claim 10 wherein the at least one bearing pad includes a leading edge bearing pad.

14. (Original) The slider of claim 10 and further comprising a center rail or side rails having a raised bearing surface formed therealong.

15. (Original) The slider of claim 10 wherein a length to cross dimension ratio of the at least one bearing pad is less than or equal to 2.

16. (Original) The slider of claim 10 and include a multiple recessed surfaces or elevations including a first recessed surface recessed below the leading edge step region and the raised bearing surface and a second deep recessed surface

recessed below the first recessed surface and the recessed pressure cavity surface is formed at a recessed depth of the second deep recessed surface.

17. (Original) The slider of claim 16 and further comprising a leading edge bearing step from the first recessed surface to a stepped bearing surface of the leading edge step region.

18 (Original) The slider of claim 16 and further comprising a trailing edge bearing step from the raised bearing surface to the second deep recessed surface.

19. (Original) The slider of claim 10 wherein the at least one bearing pad includes a leading edge bearing pad having an expanded cross width dimension having the recessed pressure cavity formed thereon or a plurality of spaced leading edge bearing pads each having a recessed pressure cavity formed thereon.

20. (Original) A slider comprising:

- a slider body including at least one leading edge bearing pad between a leading edge and a trailing edge of the slider and the at least one leading edge bearing pad having a raised bearing surface and a stepped bearing surface elevated above a recessed surface of the slider and a recessed pressure cavity having a recessed cavity surface recessed from the raised bearing surface and the stepped bearing surface and the leading edge bearing pad including a cavity step from the stepped bearing surface to the recessed cavity surface and the recessed cavity surface to the raised bearing surface or a plurality of recessed cavities having a cavity step to the raised bearing surface about a perimeter thereof.